

**REMARKS**

Responsive to the Office Action mailed June 4, 2003, the Examiner's comments and cited art have been studied.

**Amendments**

Applicant has reinstated claims 10, 20, 28, and 40, which were cancelled in the Applicant's previous Response as claims 41-44, in light of the new grounds of rejection of the current Office Action.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 11, 21, 29, 35, and 36 to remove the limitation that the first resilient material is a polyurethane, which was added in the previous Response. Applicant has further amended claims 1, 11, 21, 29, 35, and 36 to clarify the relative position of the flange, heel, and lip portions of the piston seal.

Applicant has further amended claims 29, 30, and 31 to resolve an issue of antecedent basis discovered during Applicant's review of the claims. The amendments do not change the intended scope of the claim.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15-19, 21-23, 27, 29, 30, 33-34, and 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Pittman, U.S. Patent No. 3,319,537, in view of Handbook of Plastics, Elastomers and Composites (hereafter, "the Handbook").

Pittman fails to teach or suggest a piston head assembly wherein an annular heel section of a first resilient material is disposed between an annular flange and a lip section of a second resilient material, as recited in independent claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 36. The Office Action asserts that Pittman discloses an annular heel section (the slip ring 43), a lip section (the body 34), and an annular flange (the washer 33). However, instead of being disposed between the body 34 and the washer 33 of Pittman, the slip ring 43 is mounted around the outer diameter of the washer 33, while the body 34 is bonded to the washer, and longitudinal portions 47 of the body 34 extend through the washer 33 to integrally interconnect the portions of the body on either side of the washer 33.<sup>1</sup> Pittman recites that the body 34 "preferably covers at least one end face of the washer" 33.<sup>2</sup> Therefore Pittman fails to teach or suggest disposing the slip ring 43 between the body 34 and the washer 33. The Handbook also fails to teach or suggest such a structure. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 12-13, 15-19, 22-23, 27, 30, 33-34, and 37-39 depend from allowable claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 36 and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 1-7, 11-17, 21-24, 26, 29-31, 33, and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dailey, U.S. Patent No. 3,136,228, in view of Handbook of Plastics, Elastomers and Composites (hereafter, "the Handbook").

<sup>1</sup> Figs. 3-4; Col. 2, line 37-Col. 3, line 10.

<sup>2</sup> Col. 3, lines 8-10.

Dailey fails to teach or suggest an annular heel section disposed between an annular flange and a lip section as in Applicant's claims 1, 11, 21, 29, 35, and 36. The Office Action asserts that Dailey recites an annular heel section (the outer ring 74 of the guiding portion 20), an annular flange (the annular discs 62), and a lip section (the sealing and cushioning portions 16 and 18). However, the guiding portion 20 of Dailey is not disposed between the annular discs 62 and the sealing and cushioning portions 16 and 18. Rather, the sealing and cushioning portions 16 and 18 cover the outer surfaces of the annular discs 62, while the outer ring 74 is sandwiched between the inner surfaces of the annular discs 62, while sandwiched between the sealing and cushioning portions 16 and 18. Therefore, Dailey fails to teach or suggest disposing the outer ring 74 between the annular discs 62 and the sealing and cushioning portions 16 and 18. The Handbook also fails to teach or suggest such a structure. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2-7, 12-17, 22-24, 26, 30-31, and 37 depend from allowable claims 1, 11, 21, 29, and 36 and are therefore also allowable. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

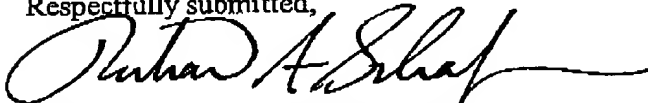
### CONCLUSION

The prior art made of record, but not specifically cited, is not believed to disclose any significant information that is not sufficiently discussed in this Response.

It is respectfully submitted that all issues and rejections have been adequately addressed and that all claims as amended and pending following entry of this Response are now allowable and that the case should be advanced to issuance.

If the Examiner has any questions or wishes to discuss the claims as amended, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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